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DEVIZES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1925.

G. S. A. WAYLEN,
L.R.C.P., Lond., M.R.C.S., Eng, L.S.A.,
Medical Officer of Health for the Devizes Rural Sanitary District.

Devizes:
GEORGE SIMPSON & Co., DEVIZES, LTD., 14, MARKET PLACE.
1926.

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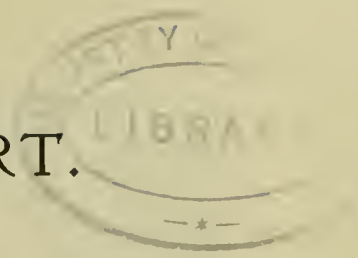
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ANNUAL REPORT.



To the Chairman and Members of the Devizes Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1925.

Your obedient Servant,

G. S. A. WAYLEN.

This year the Ministry of Health require a more detailed report on the progress made in the area during the preceding five years, and any changes in the sanitary administration of the district.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

The greater portion of the district which is comprised in your area, of which the town of Devizes is almost the centre, lies in a valley broadening towards its western end known as the Pewsey Vale, which is situated between the two ranges of chalk downs, which run parallel from east to west across a considerable portion of the county. The most western of the villages, Erlestoke, The Cheverells, The Lavingtons, Easterton and Erchfont, lie at the extreme end of the valley under the southern range of hills known as Salisbury Plain. Further east the villages of Chirton, Marden, Patney, Etchilhampton, Beechingstoke, Alton and Stanton St. Bernard, with All Cannings, Allington and Bishop's Cannings, lie direct in the Pewsey Valley, with the Marlborough downs to the north and Salisbury Plain to the south. These are mostly on the upper green sand formation, whilst some few villages at the western end of the escarpment of the northern range border on the oolite and in some instances are directly on it.

General Statistics.

Area—65,738 aeres.

Population—12,353.

Number of inhabited houses—2,795.

Rateable value—£98,552.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£251 10s. 10d. (on reduced assessable value).

Amount of Poor Law Relief—£1,466 12s. 9d.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

Births—193 (Legitimate, M. 100, F. 81; Illegitimate, M. 4, F. 8). Birth Rate—15.3 (R.G. return).

Deaths—139 (M. 63, F. 76). Death Rate—11.2 (R.G. return).

Number of women dying in or in consequence of child-birth—
—from sepsis, none; other causes, none.

Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births—
Legitimate, 77; Illegitimate, nil.

Deaths from Measles, all ages—nil.

„ „ Whooping Cough—nil.

„ „ Diarrhœa, under 2 years—1.

„ „ Diphtheria, under 2 years—2.

The cases of Diphtheria are included in the Registrar General's return—one was the case of a child feeble minded who died in a home for cases of that description in Yorkshire; the other had been living for six months in another county, where she contracted diphtheria and died; both, however, are credited to your district as their birthplace and natural place of residence. This explanation is needed as in my return for sickness of a notifiable character one case of diphtheria is given as occurring in the district.

Vital Statistics.

Causes of Death.				Male.	Female.
All Causes	...	...	...	63	76
1. Enteric Fever	...	...	...	—	—
2. Small Pox	...	...	...	—	—
3. Measles	...	...	...	—	—
4. Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—
6. Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	2
7. Influenza	...	...	...	4	8
8. Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	—	—
9. Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	—	—
10. Tuberculosis, Respiratory System	...	...	...	3	2
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	1	1
12. Cancer Malignant Diseases	...	...	...	8	10
13. Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	—	—
14. Diabetes	...	...	...	2	1
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	6	4
16. Heart Disease	...	...	...	11	13

Causes of Death			Male.	Female.
17.	Arterio Sclerosis ... ..	...	2	3
18.	Bronchitis ... ..	...	1	4
19.	Pneumonia, all forms ... ..	...	1	2
20.	Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	...	1	—
21.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ... ..	...	—	—
22.	Diarrhœa under two years ... ..	...	—	—
23.	Appendicitis and Typhlitis ... ..	...	—	1
24.	Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	...	1	—
25.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis ... ..	...	3	—
26.	Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	...	—	—
27.	Other Accidents and Diseases of Preg- nancy ... ..	...	—	—
28.	Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth ... ..	...	3	9
29.	Suicide ... ..	...	1	—
30.	Other Deaths from Violence ... ..	...	3	1
31.	Other Defined Diseases ... ..	...	12	15
32.	Causes ill defined or unknown ... ..	...	—	—
Special causes (included above) :—				
	Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	—	—
	Polioencephalitis ... ..	...	—	—

**Death Rate and Birth Rate for Five Years, 1921-1925,
compared with General Rate of the Country.**

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Birth rate England and Wales R.G. returns	22·4	20·6	19·7	18·8	18·3
Birth rate Devizes Rural Dis- trict	19·4	18·1	18·5	19·1	15·3
Death rate England and Wales R.G. returns	12·1	12·9	11·6	12·2	12·2
Death rate Devizes Rural Dis- trict	8·9	10·3	10·3	11·2	11·2

It will be seen that the death rate has been below the

average of the country generally for the past five years, which is satisfactory.

The birth rate has also been below the average, which is unsatisfactory.

Table of Cases of Infectious Disease and Tuberculosis Notified.

Name of Parish.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Dysentery.	Erysipelas.	Puerperal Fever	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Tubercular Lungs.	Other Tubercular Conditions.
Market Lavington	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
West Lavington	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...
Potterne ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Rowde ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Roundway ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Stanton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
St. Bernard	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Easterton ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Worton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Chittoe ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Marston ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Wilts County Mental Hospital	...	...	1	24	...	...	1	...	...	9	4
	13	1	1	24	1	...	1	1	...	17	5

The year has been a healthy one as regards infectious disease.

Of the cases of Scarlet Fever, six occurred at Market Lavington—five in the month of October and one in December; two at Stanton St. Bernard in May and June; three at Rowde in August, September and December; one at Potterne in May.

The removal of cases to the Isolation Hospital has shown this year the advantage of such treatment; all were removed.

The one solitary case of Diphtheria was in Roundway Parish and was connected with cases in the Urban District.

The case of Encephalitis Lethargica was in a travelling van, located for the time being at West Lavington, whilst visiting the local spring fairs; they were Bristol people and contracted the disease in that city. The case was sent to Salisbury Isolation Hospital, where they have a special ward and nurses for the treatment of such cases.

Scarlet Fever and Deaths under the following Age Groups.

Under one year	...	...	—
Between 1 and 5	...	...	1
„ 5 and 10	...	...	4
„ 10 and 15	...	...	7
„ 15 and 20	...	...	—
„ 20 and 30	..	...	1

Tuberculosis—New Cases and Mortality under Age Groups.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Between 1—5 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ 5 and 10 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ 10 „ 15	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ 15 „ 20	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
„ 20 „ 25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ 25 „ 35	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ 35 „ 45	1	3	1	...	2	2	...	...
„ 45 „ 55	2	2	1	...	...	...	...	...
„ 55 „ 65	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...
Above 65 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	6	11	3	2	3	2	...	..

It must be borne in mind that this return includes nine cases of Pulmonary and four cases on non-Pulmonary notified

from the Wilts County Mental Hospital which do not properly belong to the district, leaving eight cases of Pulmonary and one of non-Pulmonary from the villages included in the area.

As this is a five yearly survey report the following table gives the number of cases of infectious disease notified during that period :—

YEAR.				Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Erysipelas.	Puerperal Fever.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.
1921	...	...	...	22	...	1	...	...	...	..	19	1	...
1922	...	...	...	9	4	1	9	1	7	...	10	...	...
1923	...	...	...	13	8	2	...	...	2	...	16	3	...
1924	...	...	...	18	1	1	...	1	2	...	13	4	...
1925	...	...	...	12	1	1	...	...	1	1	17	5	...
TOTAL				74	14	6	9	2	12	1	75	13	...

Of the 75 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified 30 were inmates of the Wilts County Mental Hospital really unconnected with the district, and of the 13 non-Pulmonary cases four belonged to the same institution.

Report of the Devizes and Pewsey Joint Isolation Hospital.

At the close of the year 1924 eight cases were remaining in the Hospital; 76 were admitted during the year, making 84 cases treated. The 76 fresh cases admitted were:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	5 ²
Diphtheria	...	...	...	16
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	1
Observation Cases, chiefly Septic Throat				6
Tubercular Meningitis, admitted as a possible Encephalitis Lethargica	...			1

They came from the following Districts:—

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Puerperal Fever	Observation.	Tubercular Meningitis.	TOTAL.
Devizes Urban	6	12	1	...	..	19
Devizes Rural :—						
Bishop's Cannings	...	...	...	...	1	1
Easterton ...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Market Lavington	6	...	...	1	...	7
Rowde ...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Roundway ...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Stanton St. Bernard	2	...	...	...	...	2
Pewsey Rural :—						
Charlton ...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Chute ...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Ludgershall	8	1	...	...	...	9
Milton ...	4	...	...	...	...	4
Manningford Bruce	1	1	...	...	...	2
N. Newton	2	...	...	...	...	2
Oare ...	5	...	...	...	...	5
Pewsey ...	2	1	...	...	...	3
Rushall ...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Tedworth ...	5	...	...	...	...	5
Upavon ...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Woodborough	1	...	...	...	...	1
Staff ...	...	...	...	5	...	5
Total	52	16	1	6	1	76

These 84 patients were in the Hospital 3,380 days, or an average of 9.2 per day.

One death occurred—a case of Tubercular Meningitis. A stranger from London visiting Bishop's Cannings was admitted in July; his symptoms at the time of admission resembled Encephalitis Lethargica or Sleeping Sickness. He died after nine days. The more detailed examination which was able to be made whilst in the Hospital, and the past history of his illness which was obtained after admission, showed clearly that it was a case of Tubercular Meningitis. No other death occurred.

The Hospital was empty for a short time in the summer.

The number of cases for the past nine years is as under :

District.	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Total
Devizes Urban ...	7	22	44	11	9	12	11	20	19	155
Devizes Rural ...	23	34	20	24	17	30	17	19	14	198
Pewsey Rural ...	11	20	62	44	34	92	61	12	38	374
Staff ...	...	4	8	6	5	5	2	6	5	41
Total ...	41	80	134	85	65	139	91	57	76	768

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Hospitals Provided or Subsidised by the Local Authority or the County Council.

None are subsidised by your authority for Tuberculosis, Maternity or Children. Tuberculous cases of a pulmonary nature are sent to Winsley and Harnham Sanatoria under an arrangement with the County Council.

Non-pulmonary and surgical cases are sometimes sent by the County Council to Savernake Hospital under an arrangement with that institution.

Your authority share with the Devizes Urban and Pewsey Rural "The Devizes and Pewsey Joint Isolation Hospital," a third of the expenses of which institution is borne by the County Council; the remaining two-thirds is borne in proportion to their rateable value by the three contributing authorities.

Under an arrangement with the County Council, Small Pox cases, should they occur, will be sent to Salisbury.

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, or homeless children, other than the Poor Law Institution and Infirmary.

An Orthopædic Clinic is held weekly at the Scouts' Hall, which is attended by a specialist when necessary. There are no school clinics, but the children are inspected by the County School Medical Officers.

There is a dispensary for tuberculous cases held weekly

at Trowbridge, where patients can obtain the advice of the County Tuberculosis Medical Officer.

Venereal cases can attend a Venereal Clinic at Bath.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

Nursing is not provided for by the Local Authority or by the County Council otherwise than by monetary grants in aid, and in some cases some district nurses receive payment for school work by the Educational Department, otherwise the District Nurses are supported by subscriptions and by small payments for services rendered.

There is a District Nurse for Devizes Town, who also looks after the poor in that part of Roundway immediately adjoining the town. The distant parts of Roundway have no district nurse.

There is one for the joint parishes of Potterne, Worton and Marston.

The two Lavingtons have one in common, who also does work in the adjoining villages.

Alton Berners and Marden share in the services of a district nurse residing in Woodborough in the Pewsey district.

Bromham and Chittoe maintain a nurse for the two parishes, resident in Bromham, who also attends the adjoining hamlet of Sandy Lane in the Calne district.

The nurse from Seend, in the Melksham district, looks after Poulshot.

Rowde, a large parish, has no district nurse.

The parishes in the 3 Poor Law district, the largest district in area of the Union, is the worst off.

There is no resident nurse at Bishop's Cannings, All Cannings, Allington, and Etchilhampton.

At All Cannings an endeavour has been made to get a nurse from a home in Devizes for midwifery cases, and a nurse attends one day a week; it is not a satisfactory arrangement.

Bishop's Cannings has no district nurse.

Stanton has a certified midwife residing in the village.

Ambulance Facilities.

There is an ambulance connected with the Devizes and Pewsey Joint Isolation Hospital which is utilised to fetch and frequently to return infectious cases.

There is an ambulance for non-infectious cases kept in Devizes, which is available for cases other than infectious which occur in the Rural District.

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health—Part-time officer.

Sanitary Inspector—Whole-time officer.

Midwives.

There are eight certified Midwives residing in the District, besides five living in the Urban area who attend cases frequently in the Rural District.

One resides at Stanton St. Bernard.

One „ West Lavington.

One „ Potterne.

One „ Seend.

One „ Coate.

One „ Bromham.

Two „ Urchfont.

Cases from the third District, All Cannings, Etchilhampton, Bishop's Cannings, Allington, have usually to send to Devizes.

Chemical Work.

This is attended to when required by the County Council for food analysis, etc.

Adoptive Acts and Bye-laws in Force.

Public Health (Amendment Act), 1890, Part III.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention Act), 1890.

Infectious Diseases (Notification Act), 1889.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

Some few villages have a public water supply.

Some of the houses at Horton, a tything of Bishop's Cannings Parish, were supplied a few years ago with water pumped from a well into a reservoir on the slope of Horton Down and carried by gravitation to the village, stand pipes being erected at several points in the street or main road.

Erlestoke has a supply from a reservoir filled by a strong spring and conveyed by pipes through the village.

Market Lavington is largely supplied from a very strong spring called Broadwell, which has a public pump attached to which the inhabitants have access.

Potterne has several strong springs which are more or less public supplies, and the same applies to Easterton and Little Cheverell.

At Patney a limited supply is given to the village from a reservoir filled with water by pumping from a fairly deep well in the highest part of the village. A supply stand pipe has been erected in the centre of the village.

In most villages the supply is from wells, usually surface wells, and there are a few houses in an outlying part of Potterne and more in Great Cheverell Green which in each case draw their water from a shallow stream.

The question of a better supply to the latter village has been on several occasions the subject of consideration by your Council. In my report for 1919 I alluded to these, the last idea being to supply the Cheverells, Worton and Marston, Poulshot and Market Lavington by a conjoint scheme. The cost, however, of such a plan made it prohibitive.

Drainage.

Few villages have any definite system of drainage of slop water.

None except part of the Parish of Roundway have any modern system of treating their sewage.

This has a septic tank system for the houses in the Breach.

The Depôt of the Wiltshire Regiment, also in Roundway Parish, has a septic tank system of its own.

Market Lavington, Rowde, Potterne and All Cannings have in each case a main drain going through the principal street.

As a rule the slop water is carried to some adjoining fields and allowed to soak away, and there are open brick gutters by the road side in several villages.

Closest Accommodation.

In nearly all your villages, bucket closets or small valuts used as earth closets are the usual and most frequent form of dealing with excreta. The old privies are gradually being converted, in the past six years from looking over your Sanitary Inspector's returns, I see 178 have been converted into pail closets.

During the four years of the war all sanitary work was at a standstill, and your Inspector was on war service. In some of the large houses there are cesspits, with frequently a sub-soil soak-away arrangement for any overflow that may occur.

In a few villages isolated cases may occur in which the overflow goes into the street drain, but these are very rare. Earth closets are the general principle adopted in all your elementary schools.

Housing.

During the past five years 112 houses have been built in various parishes in the District.

43 of these have been built by private enterprise without State aid.

39 Privately with the assistance of State aid.

30 by the Local Authority with State aid.

A considerable number are being built this year by your Authority with State aid.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

The number of persons registered as Cowkeepers, Dairy-men or Wholesale Purveyors of Milk is 238, whilst there are 48 registered Retail Purveyors of Milk.

During the latter part of the year several outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease occurred in the district, and the systematic inspection of premises usually made at this period of the year was, in consequence, abandoned. 268 inspections were, however, made during the early part of the year.

New Dwelling Houses, 1921-1925.

Year.	NUMBER ERECTED			
	State-Aided.		Others.	Total.
	By Local Authority.	By other Persons.		
1921	...	5	3	8
1922	...	8	5	13
1923	...	...	21	21
1924	...	10	13	23
1925	30	16	1	47
Total	30	39	43	112

Slaughter-houses. •

There are 10 registered slaughter-houses in the district, including one licensed knacker's yard.

Factories and Workshops.

There are 25 factories and 47 workshops as below :—

Factories.

Brickworks	...	...	3
Dairy	...	...	1
Electricity	...	...	1
Engineering	...	...	2
Fruit preserving	...	...	1
Grist Mills	...	...	5
Joinery	...	...	5
Laundry	...	...	1
Saw Mills	...	...	6
			—
Total	...	...	25
			—

Workshops.

Bakehouses	...	...	22
Blacksmiths	...	...	7
Boot repairing	...	...	1
Cycle repairing	...	...	3
Harness making	...	...	3
Joinery	...	...	8
Laundry	...	...	1
Millinery	...	...	1
Plumbing	...	...	1
			—
Total	...	...	47
			—

Summary of Work Done in Sanitary Inspector's Department during Year 1925.

Total number of inspections recorded	...	...	1,261
Informal notices served	...	...	51
Informal notices complied with	...	...	45
Statutory notices served	...	...	3
Statutory notices complied with	...	...	3
W.C.'s constructed for new property	...	...	14
E.C.'s constructed for new property	...	...	34
Additional W.C.'s constructed (old property)	...	...	7
Additional E.C.'s constructed (old property)	...	...	—
Privies converted to E.C.'s	...	...	11

Privies repaired	...	...	...	...	2
E.C.'s repaired	...	...	...	...	2
New house drains laid	...	...	...	...	64
Drains re-laid	...	...	...	...	14
Drains trapped	...	...	...	...	21
Drains cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	18
Wells cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Foul ditches cleansed	...	...	...	...	21
Heaps of refuse removed	...	...	...	...	37
Foul privies cleansed	...	...	...	...	17
Dwelling-houses limewashed and cleansed	...	...	...	...	24
Bakehouses limewashed	...	...	...	...	4
Slaughterhouses limewashed	...	...	...	...	3
* Unsound meat condemned—three pigs' carcasses, one beef carcase, and numerous organs.					

* I attended a course of lectures and demonstrations held at Bristol during the period June to October on the subject of Meat Inspection, and have since passed the special examination of the Royal Sanitary Institute qualifying as an Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

T. V. TRUMPER.

Housing Acts, 1909-1925.

Statement of Work carried out during the Year ended 31st December, 1925, under the above Acts, in the Devizes Rural District.

Number of New Houses erected during the Year :—

- (a) Total, including numbers given separately under
 - (b) 47
(49 others in course of erection).
- (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :
 - (i) By the Local Authority 30
(40 others in course of erection).
 - (ii) By other bodies or persons 16
(6 others in course of erection).

1.—Unfit Dwelling Houses.

- Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 82
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 33

- | | | |
|---|--------|----|
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | ... .. | 6 |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | ... .. | 16 |

2.—Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	23
---	--------	----

3.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- | | | |
|--|--------|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | ... .. | nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices : | | |
| (a) by owners | ... .. | nil |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | ... .. | nil |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close | ... .. | nil |

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- | | | |
|--|--------|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... .. | nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices : | | |
| (a) by owners | ... .. | nil |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | ... .. | nil |

C. *Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

- | | | |
|--|--------|---|
| (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders | ... .. | 3 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... .. | 3 |

* Action was taken prior to passing of 1925 Act.

- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... nil
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made nil
- (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders nil

(Signed) T. V. TRUMPER,
Sanitary Inspector.

27th February, 1926.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspec- tions (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occu- piers prose- cuted. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	19	...	...
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	38	...	...
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	...	...	...
Total	57	...	...

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars.	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	4	4	...	...
Want of ventilation ...	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ...	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors ...	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances ...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary accommodation:—				
insufficient ...	2	2	...	...
unsuitable or defective ...	2	2	...	...
not separate for sexes ...	...	...	...	...
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bake-house (s 101) ...	...	...	...	...
Other offences ...	...	...	...	...
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers Order, 1921.)				
Total ...	8	8	...	...

